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Measles Cases Rise Dramatically — But Not in U.S.

Falling measles vaccination rates during the COVID-19 pandemic caused a later spike in global measles-related illness and death, according to a Nov. 17 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report. The increase in deaths was based on a model, however, and not on reported fatalities. Based on separate, concurrent CDC data this effect was not observed in the U.S.

By Angelo DePalma, Ph.D.

23

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There was an increase in measles cases reported between 2021 and 2022, according to a Nov. 17 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The report attributed the increase to falling vaccination rates.

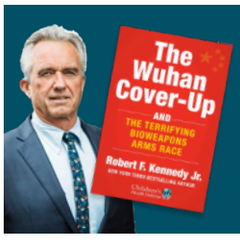
U.S. media described the report results as "staggering," but separate, concurrent CDC data, posted Nov. 2, show only a slight increase in measles cases in the U.S.

According to the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), global measles cases increased 18% and estimated deaths rose 43% between 2021 and 2022. The number of countries experiencing "large or disruptive" outbreaks also rose between 2021 and 2022, from 22 to 37.

The global decrease in vaccination rates — cited by the CDC as the cause of the increase in measles cases — was small, although the decrease did break a pattern going back more than 20 years.

The data show global measles vaccination rates had been rising steadily, from 72% in 2000 to 86% in 2019. They fell 5 percentage points in 2021, to 81%, but then inched upward again in 2022 to 83%.

The CDC report did not explain how the relatively small changes in vaccine rates could bring about such dramatic increases in measles cases and deaths globally. The authors of the report did not respond to The Defender's request to explain this.



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Estimates cited in report 'subject to some uncertainty'

The CDC's percentage increase in global measles cases is based on data provided by 144 reporting countries. However, the agency's estimate of a 43% increase in fatalities is just that — an estimate, based on previously calculated case fatality rates (CFRs) for specific countries, not death reports.

CFR, which typically measures disease severity, is the percentage of people among all diagnosed individuals who die from a disease during a specified time interval: If 100 people get measles during 2023 and 5 die, the CFR is 5/100 or 5% for that period.

While CFR provides useful information for outbreaks that have already occurred, its predictive value depends on accurate case reporting, health system readiness, the ability to distinguish symptomatic from asymptomatic cases and social factors that may result in case over- or under-estimation.

For example, the general population CFR for COVID-19 was estimated at between 0.4% and 15% early in the pandemic, but official statistics now show the CFR was about 0.9%. The CDC now recognizes that the CFR for COVID-19 was probably much lower still.

Since CFR is not constant but varies depending on the context, time, population, treatment and the patient's ability to recover, a CFR calculated during one year may not be valid in a subsequent year.

The authors acknowledged these limitations in their report:

> "First, vaccination coverage might be affected by data quality issues, leading to inaccurate estimations. Second, the number of specimens submitted for genotyping represents a small proportion of measles cases, so the distribution of genotypes presented might not reflect the global distribution.
>
> "Finally, the output from modeling estimates is dependent on the data input into the model and is thus subject to some uncertainty."

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CDC offers no data supporting claim that vaccination rates are linked to measles outbreaks

Most U.S. media reporting on the CDC global data emphasized the "cases up, vaccinations down" angle.

ABC News headlined the story appropriately — citing the CDC's numbers on cases and vaccination rates — but reported that "most of the cases were among young people who were not vaccinated, and most outbreaks occur in groups of people who are not up to date on their vaccines."

However, the CDC did not report the percentage of vaccinated versus unvaccinated infections, or even that infections occurred mainly "among young people who were not vaccinated."

The CDC report stated only that "failures of routine immunization services to reach children are rapidly revealed by the occurrence of outbreaks primarily affecting unvaccinated children," but the agency presented no data to support this claim.

Quoting a CDC official, Reuters declared the findings "staggering." The outlet also reported that interruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic "massively disrupted" worldwide vaccination efforts and recovery has been slow.

The CDC did not use such dramatic descriptions of its findings, but instead let the data speak for itself.

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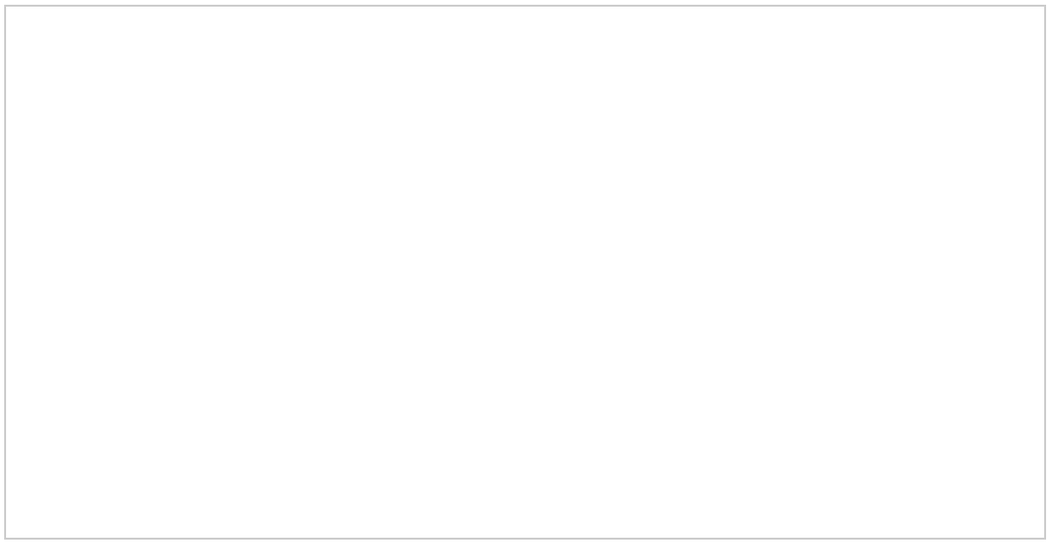
CONTINUE

The U.S. was unaffected but authors conclude surveillance and vaccines 'critical'

The takeaway from the CDC's MMWR data is that when under stress, developing countries with sub-optimal health systems do worse than developed nations — a variation on the theme that poor people have fewer resources than wealthy people.

Regardless, the CDC's data show that however "staggering" the rise in worldwide measles rates, the U.S. was unaffected, as shown in Figure 1.



U.S. measles cases by year. Credit: CDC

The data in Figure 1, sourced from a separate 2023 CDC report, may be used to make almost any case regarding measles infections and vaccinations.

For example, while 2012-2014 and 2020-2022 are examples of small increases and the 2017-2019 difference may be described as "dramatic," increases recorded for all three of these time periods occurred while U.S. vaccination rates were rising.

Similarly "dramatic" are the decreases in measles cases between 2014-2016, and between 2019 and any subsequent year, which might be used to support the effectiveness of measles vaccination.

The CDC's statistical analysis of the data revealed that U.S. case numbers totaling 121 for 2022, the first year following the largest global vaccination drop (5 percentage points), are less than half the U.S. case average — 247 — for the 2010-2023 time period, and almost exactly at the median value for these data, 121.5.

In other words, nothing remarkable.

We also calculated the statistical trend for the 2010-2023 data using an online correlation coefficient calculator. This statistic measures the strength of the relationship between two variables — in this instance, between the year and the number of measles cases.

Since vaccination rates also were rising during the 2010-2023 time period, this relationship also tracks vaccinations to measles outbreaks.

The correlation coefficient is a number between -1 and +1. A value of +1 indicates that a change in the independent variable (year, and by analogy rising vaccination rate) is accompanied by a consistent, predictable increase in the dependent variable (measles cases). A -1 value means cases fall. A value of 0 means no relationship exists.

The correlation coefficient for the data in Figure 1 is -0.000163, which is very close to zero and suggests no relationship between time or vaccination rates and measles cases.

According to the MMWR report, population-based measles immunity requires 95% of children to receive two vaccine doses, an immunization rate achieved by about one-third of the world's nations.

The authors concluded: "It is critical that all countries and global partners work to accelerate the recovery of vaccination and surveillance programs toward the end goal of regional measles elimination."

1989 measles outbreak in U.S. raises questions about vaccine efficacy

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first U.S. measles vaccine in 1963 and licensed an improved product, the Edmondson-Enders vaccine, in 1968.

Edmondson-Enders remains the only measles shot distributed in the U.S., but today it is usually combined with immunizations against mumps and rubella (the MMR vaccine) or with protection against mumps, rubella and varicella (MMRV).

Before 1963, nearly everyone got measles by age 15. The CDC estimates that 3-4 million Americans were infected each year, of whom 48,000 were hospitalized, 1,000 developed measles-related encephalitis (brain swelling), and between 400 and 500 died.

Measles cases fell after the initial vaccination campaign and by 1978, the CDC announced its goal of eliminating measles from the U.S. by 1982. Not only was this goal unrealized, but a large 1989 outbreak among vaccinated children prompted experts to recommend a booster MMR dose for all children.

The 1989 outbreak was concerning on several levels. Case numbers totaled 7,335, 380% higher than in 1988. Ten confirmed and 30 suspected deaths also occurred, but 51.2% of those affected were vaccinated.

Among the unvaccinated patients, 18.1% were ineligible for the shot, skewing infection risk toward the vaccinated even more.

The current U.S. vaccination schedule recommends two shots — one between 12-15 months of age, the other between 4-6 years.

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Angelo DePalma, Ph.D.

Angelo DePalma, Ph.D., is a science reporter/editor for The Defender.

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Someone

3 days ago

Clearly the CDC is just spewing out whatever comes to their minds at this point because none of their explanations fit the data or their propaganda. Gotta blame those unvaccinated children who didn't get sick! Gotta blame the anti-vaxxers! Nope, can't let people know the cases were among the vaccinated because people might actually decline to vaccinate as they should be doing. Never mind the fact that measles is very treatable in most kids and actually helps them to fight off worse things later in life. Can't cut into Pharma's profits both now and later when they get sick from worse things than measles!

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Ektor
3 days ago

So what? Measles is not deadly to 99.999% of the population. You have a better chance of being murdered by the measles vaccination.

11 0 Reply • Share ›

Rob DF → Ektor
2 days ago

I'm old but not that old and remember a time when pretty much EVERYONE got the measles as a kid.,...

2 0 Reply • Share ›

Caroline Cary Davidson → Ektor
2 days ago

measles fatalities are super rare and only among severely compromised individuals. its been known for decades that high-dose vitamin A, given soon enough, will cure almost any case.

0 0 Reply • Share ›

tw → Ektor
3 days ago

that is 999% more chance

0 0 Reply • Share ›

CastleConnell
3 days ago

Steady stream of fear propaganda to keep the vax gravy train going. They will never run out of material to throw at us. Their goal is to get people to really believe that vax = safety. We know infectious diseases are connected to living conditions and nutrition. Also, kids need to get their immunity boosted naturally by acquiring some of these infections.

7 0 Reply • Share ›

Andreas
3 days ago

the agency's estimate of a 43% increase in fatalities is just that — an estimate, based on previously calculated case fatality rates (CFRs) for specific countries, not death reports . . .
The increase in deaths was based on a model, however, and not on reported fatalities.

What ignorance to we live in now a days that we don't collect data but rely on "models"

7 0 Reply • Share ›

symbiotic brain
3 days ago

Will this nonsense ever end? Even if you not in good health, and only listen to mainstream's unrelenting news and commercials pushing vaccines and pharmaceutical solutions for everything, you'd think by now people would figure out by now that these solutions simply don't work.. and completely out of touch with reality. But the fact that only 7% of people have taken the #4 latest covid booster, it gives me hope that people may finally be catching on to the truth

4 0 Reply • Share ›

stevor
3 days ago

what are the odds that it's due to weakened immunity, caused by the vax?

4 0 Reply • Share ›

Ronald Martono → stevor
3 days ago

Measles virus likely does not exist (no scientific (!) proof to date , only theory models in silico/computer), same as for all other viruses. Even if it would exist, it would still not be the cause of disease (4th biological natural law, as per Dr Ryke Geerd Hamer's discovery of 5BN, or as Prof. Dr. Antoine Béchamp stated 150 years ago: "Le microbe, c'est rien, le milieu, c'est tout!"). So the odds are they only want to keep people in fear and push more useless vax.

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Stephen Simac
2 days ago

Even their measles CFR's for poor countries are based on faulty guesstimates using excess deaths of children as a model. That's why war torn sections of eastern Ukraine were said to be suffering from measles epidemics for ten years, until Russia intervened and evacuated children out of the war zone. Notice how Measles Mania of 2015-leading up to CA SB277 was generated with one of the lowest yearly national case numbers, and inoculation rates well above 95% in the state.

2 0 Reply • Share ›

Rob DF
2 days ago

To do any kind of analysis you need quality data. Just look at the data in Figure1, it's literally all over the map. Only a moron would do any kind of analysis on a garbage dataset like this. Garbage in - garbage out. Should be the CDC's slogan....

2 0 Reply • Share ›

Wendy
3 days ago

I had the meases as did my sister when we were children. My sister had the worst case including delirium for a short time. However, she fully recovered with almost no treatment, mostly bed rest. I got a shot of gamma globulin, which was the standard back then. I had a very mild case and fully recovered. My doctor in California said that now the government hogs all the gamma globulin and will not allow doctors access to it to give to their patients. This is just wrong.

2 0 Reply • Share ›

Caroline Cary Davidson → Wendy
2 days ago

I too had the measles (and mumps and chicken pox) back in the early '60's. I literally don't even remember having them. I only know because my mom told me. she didn't even take my sister and I to the doctor. she said it was 'going around' so she knew and just kept us home for two weeks. moms in the neighborhoods actually TALKED to each other back in the day. imagine that.

0 0 Reply • Share ›

tw
3 days ago

with reports like this you can just bet they are setting us up for something....pretty much guaranteed

2 0 Reply • Share ›

Wendy → tw
3 days ago edited

Yeah, the dreaded rsv, which I never heard of in 73 years until recently. No one I knew had it, I never had it, although I had lots of colds; any one of them could have been rvs caused, but no one tested for it! I now maintain a robust level of Vitamin D (around 100 ng/ml) and do not suffer from colds, flu, covid or many other common viral infections. I had the flu only once when I was not in good health (doing drugs, marijuana and no supplements), around 1972 and have not had it since. And I have never had a flu shot and never will. Ditto for covid death shots and any and all alleged vaccines. They are simply poisons and good health and nutrition will prevent many common illnesses.

2 0 Reply • Share ›

r2bzjudge
2 days ago

U.S. media described the report results as “staggering"...

U.S media is propaganda. They parroted "safe and effective," while injuries from the Covid shots went off the charts. Vaccine makers provide income for U.S. media companies and that is where their loyalty lies.

1 0 Reply • Share ›

mary
2 days ago

During the pandemic, were more children getting polio, chicken pox, mumps, and any other illness for which we vaccinate? Why look just at measles?

1 0 Reply • Share ›

emmanuelozon
3 days ago

Oh dear, I never got a measles "vaccine". Should I run down to the nearest witch doctor and get one? Would it even work on a seventy-three year old?

1 0 Reply • Share ›

brbg
a day ago

In my day (1940's-1960's) we didn't get the vaccine for childhood diseases. We caught the disease and developed immunity. In my son's case, since we were a military family, we all had to get certain vaccines. My son nonetheless caught measles, mumps and chicken pox. So much for the effectiveness of vaccines.

0 0 Reply • Share ›

Caroline Cary Davidson
2 days ago

why do people not understand the 'garbage in/garbage out' nature of these 'modeling' studies? they are literally the easiest things to use, to fake the appearance of any damn thing you want to push out there.

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